

democracy and human rights concerns among our primary objectives in bilateral relations with Cambodia, calls for close monitoring of important upcoming elections, supports democratization efforts of United States assistance programs, and urges that the United States and other donors raise democracy and human rights at the June 1996 meeting of the Donor's Consultative Meeting for Cambodia.

Mr. Speaker, House Resolution 345 represents a balanced and constructive effort to advance democracy and human rights in Cambodia. This Member wants to thank the distinguished gentleman from New York and chairman of the House International Relations Committee, [Mr. GILMAN] and the distinguished Member from California and ranking member of the Subcommittee on Asia and the Pacific, [Mr. BERMAN] for their assistance and support for this resolution. This Member urges all his colleagues in this body to support House Resolution 345, as amended.

Mr. GILMAN. Mr. Speaker, I thank the distinguished chairman of our subcommittee, the gentleman from Nebraska [Mr. BEREUTER] for his supportive comments.

Mr. Speaker, I have no further requests for time, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from New York [Mr. GILMAN] that the House suspend the rules and agree to the resolution, House Resolution 345, as amended.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds having voted in favor thereof) the rules were suspended and the resolution, as amended, was agreed to.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

□ 1445

ANNIVERSARY OF MASSACRE OF KURDS BY IRAQI GOVERNMENT

Mr. GILMAN. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and agree to the resolution (H. Res. 379) expressing the sense of the House of Representatives concerning the eighth anniversary of the massacre of over 5,000 Kurds as a result of a gas bomb attack by the Iraqi Government.

The Clerk read as follows:

H. RES. 379

Whereas over four million Kurds live in Iraq, composing 20 percent of the population;

Whereas the Iraqi Government has continually taken violent actions against Kurds living in Iraq;

Whereas, on March 17, 1988, the Iraqi Government, by its own admission, used chemical weapons against Iraqi Kurd civilians in the Kurdish frontier village of Halabja, resulting in the death of over 5,000 innocent persons;

Whereas this terrible, inhumane act by the repressive Iraqi Government provoked international outrage;

Whereas the Iraqi Government continued its use of chemical weapons against a defenseless Kurdish population throughout 1988;

Whereas over 182,000 Iraqi Kurds were killed by the Iraqi Government during the Anfal campaigns in 1988;

Whereas it was not until the international response to Iraq's invasion of Kuwait in 1990 that the international community instituted measures to destroy Iraq's arsenal of weapons of mass destruction;

Whereas the Iraqi Government has laid over 20 million mines throughout the Kurdish countryside which continue to hamper efforts of rehabilitation of the displaced population;

Whereas United Nations Security Council Resolution 688 of April 1, 1991, demanded that Iraq cease repression of its citizens and called for an international relief program for the Iraqi civilian population and, in particular the Kurdish population;

Whereas, since the spring of 1991, the United States, Britain, and France have enforced by daily overflights a no-fly zone over Iraq north of the 36th parallel;

Whereas, in addition to the allied air umbrella, the United Nations carries out relief and security operations in Iraq, with emphasis on the Kurdish region;

Whereas, since 1991, the United States has provided approximately \$1.2 billion to support humanitarian and protective activities, known as Operation Provide Comfort, on behalf of the Iraqi Kurds; and

Whereas there will never truly be peace for the Iraqi Kurds without justice being carried out against their Iraqi perpetrators: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That it is the sense of the House of Representatives that the United States Administration should—

(1) mark the eighth anniversary of the death of over 5,000 Iraqi Kurds in the 1988 chemical attack by the Iraqi Government on Halabja by commemorating all those innocent men, women, and children who lost their lives;

(2) reaffirm the United States' commitment to protect and help the Kurdish people in Iraq, thus ensuring that the tragedy of Halabja will never be repeated;

(3) support efforts to promote a democratic alternative to the present regime in Iraq which will assure the Kurdish people the right to self-government through a federal system; and

(4) renew efforts to establish an international war crime tribunal to prosecute Iraqi leaders involved in crimes against humanity and war crimes.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. UPTON). Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from New York [Mr. GILMAN] and the gentleman from Virginia [Mr. MORAN] will each be recognized for 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from New York [Mr. GILMAN].

(Mr. GILMAN asked and was given permission to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. GILMAN. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of House Resolution 379, legislation introduced by our distinguished colleague the gentleman from Illinois [Mr. PORTER], which expresses the sense of Congress regarding the eighth anniversary on March 17, 1996, of the massacre of 5,000 Iraqi Kurds as a result of a gas bomb attack by the Iraqi Government.

The United States is well aware of the brutal actions of Saddam Hussein's regime against Iraqi minorities, particularly Iraqi Kurds, who are now pro-

tected in northern Iraq by Operation Provide Comfort. United States support for Operation Provide Comfort is substantial, through our participation in monitoring the no-fly zone over Iraq north of the 36th parallel, and through our approximately \$1.2 billion in humanitarian and protective activities there to assist the Kurds in the north, in which we are also able to deter Saddam's aggression.

House Resolution 379 recalls the events of March 17, 1988, and calls upon the administration to: Commemorate the memories of those innocents who lost their lives in that tragic attack; reaffirm the United States commitment to protect and assist the Kurdish minority in Iraq, to ensure that the Halabja massacre does not happen again; support efforts to promote a democratic alternative to the present regime in Iraq which will assure the Kurds the right to self-government through a federal system; and renew efforts to establish an international war crimes tribunal to prosecute Iraqi leaders involved in crimes against humanity.

Mr. Speaker, the gentleman from Illinois [Mr. PORTER] is to be commended for his sponsorship of this resolution, and for his consistent leadership in fighting for human rights. Accordingly, I support the gentleman's resolution, and urge my colleagues to support it as well.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. MORAN. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

The minority applauds this resolution introduced by the gentleman from Illinois [Mr. PORTER] and appreciates the gentleman from New York [Mr. GILMAN], the chairman, bringing it to the floor. It is appropriate that we express our sense of outrage over the massacre of 5,000 Kurds by gas bomb attack. It is a timely reminder that we have to continue our vigilance and pressure against Iraq with and on behalf of the international community.

This resolution reaffirms our commitment to protect and to help the Kurdish people in Iraq. It supports efforts to promote a democratic alternative to the present regime in Iraq which will assure the Kurdish people the right to self-government through a federal system, and it calls on the administration to renew efforts to establish an international war crimes tribunal to prosecute Iraqi leaders involved in crimes against humanity and war crimes and their principal leader, in particular, Saddam Hussein.

So this is a good resolution, and we would urge its adoption.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. GILMAN. Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as he may consume to the distinguished gentleman from Illinois [Mr. PORTER], distinguished co-chairman of our human rights caucus, who has been a leader in our battle for human rights and has brought this

Kurdish problem to our attention for a number of years.

Mr. PORTER. Mr. Speaker, I thank the distinguished chairman for yielding time to me. I particularly thank him for his tremendous leadership in fighting for the rights of minorities all across the world.

He has been steadfast in his support for the Kurdish people, the largest ethnic group in the world not to have a country of their own, 25 million people divided between Turkey, Iraq, Iran and Syria. The gentleman from New York has been absolutely outstanding in his leadership, to draw our attention to their plight in several of these countries and to fight for their basic human rights.

Mr. Speaker, 8 years ago on March 17, 1988, Saddam Hussein's regime attacked the Kurdish town of Halabja using poison gas and nerve gas. Over 5,000 civilians, including women and children, perished in this attack. Following the attack, the Iraqi Government demonstrated just how terrible and inhumane it is by continuing its reign of terror against the Kurds.

Throughout 1988, over 182,000 Iraqi Kurds were killed by the Iraqi Government in vicious gas attacks. It was not until Iraq's invasion of Kuwait in 1990 that the international community stepped forward and took measures to destroy Iraq's arsenal of weapons of mass destruction.

Today the United States and the international community support efforts to protect the Iraqi Kurds. The United States has been instrumental in ensuring that humanitarian assistance reaches Kurds in Iraq and that they are protected from Iraqi Government attacks.

The plight of the Iraqi Kurds, however, remains precarious at best. Saddam Hussein continues to terrorize the Kurdish region through acts of sabotage and economic embargo. Additionally, over 20 million land mines laid by the Iraqi Government throughout the Kurdish countryside continually hamper relief efforts. Today there are posed on the edge of the Kurdish area 100,000 Iraqi troops threatening those areas.

Mr. Speaker, the Iraqi Government refuses to guarantee its citizens basic human rights and the right to live under the rule of law. The United Nations imposed sanctions as a result of Iraq's 1990 invasion of Kuwait. Saddam Hussein continuously refuses to comply with the U.N. Security Council resolutions.

As a result, the economy continues to deteriorate, but it is not Saddam Hussein who suffers the terrible cost of a debilitating economy, Mr. Speaker. Instead, those who bear the burden of a dictator's cruel and senseless policy are the innocent citizens who are refused the right to change their government and whose freedoms of expression and association are denied. Basic human rights only exist in the Kurdish-controlled areas in the north because of the protection of international forces.

Iraq must continue to be ostracized from the community of nations, Mr. Speaker, until its conduct begins to approach a respect for basic rights of each human being to live, to worship and to speak according to the dictates of his or her own conscience.

We must never ever forget those Iraqi Kurds who lost their lives as the result of the terrible, despicable acts of a repressive dictator. Mr. Speaker, the responsibility falls to us to ensure that their memory forever remains alive.

Mr. Speaker, past events make crystal clear that Saddam Hussein would attack the Kurds tomorrow if the United States did not protect them. Since 1991, Operation Provide Comfort has provided humanitarian assistance and protective activities on behalf of the Iraqi Kurds.

Without the support both morally and economically of the United States, I believe without the slightest doubt that many more innocent Kurdish men, women, and children would have lost their lives. The United States must continue to stand with those like the Iraqi Kurds who refuse to surrender their basic human rights to the present repressive and monstrous ways of dictators like Saddam Hussein.

Mr. Speaker, with the passage of this resolution today, Congress will go on record as commemorating the March 17, 1988 attack on the Iraqi Kurds and reaffirming strong United States support for the Kurdish people of Iraq. I strongly urge the adoption of this resolution.

Mr. Speaker, let me also comment upon a related matter. Recently our ally, Turkey, has chosen a new prime minister, Mesut Yilmaz. He has recently called for a new dialog with Greece that would intend to resolve many ongoing disputes and to bring Turkey and Greece into the kind of relation, or allies with one another, that would reflect well upon both countries and would lead to a lessening of tensions in the geographic region.

As part of that announcement, Prime Minister Yilmaz also said that he would like to open a border gate with Armenia, if he saw clear signs of progress toward a peace settlement between Armenia and Azerbaijan in their 5-year war over Nagorno-Karabakh.

He also said, Mr. Speaker, that regarding the repression of the Kurds in southern Turkey by the Turkish Government, that he would put upon the table a plan that would include granting the Kurds in Turkey cultural liberties such as the Kurdish language education that moderate Kurdish groups have long sought.

Mr. Speaker, he said also that the state of emergency would gradually be lifted in the southeast region and that measures would be taken to stimulate its economy which has suffered during the long conflict.

Mr. Speaker, he said that, and I quote, "after having witnessed such terrible events in the past, after losing 15,000 people. I believe we have come to

a common understanding that this problem can be solved only by peaceful means and not by military means."

Mr. Speaker, this is extremely good news. This is what the United States and those of us in Congress concerned with the plight of the Kurds in Turkey have long sought. If the Turkish Government can follow through and the Turkish people can support their new prime minister in this endeavor, I believe that the lives of thousands and thousands of innocent people, part of the Kurdish minority as well as the lives of Turkish citizens will be spared.

I commend the new prime minister, Mr. Yilmaz, on taking this initiative. I know that it takes great political courage in Turkey to do so. We will promise that we will work together with the Turkish Government to achieve the settlement of differences with Greece, the opening of a positive relationship with Armenia and on the resolution of the terrible conflict in southeast Turkey that has claimed so many lives, made so many people homeless and refugees in their own country and had plagued the entire country for such a long, long time.

□ 1500

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

I want to commend the gentleman from Illinois [Mr. PORTER] first and foremost for this fine resolution and for his leadership on these issues. He has been tenacious over the years in raising the issue of the such maligned and troubled Kurds who have suffered so much, and I want to thank him for remembering, through this resolution, that horrible day when some 5,000 people were killed by poison gas.

I will never forget the picture of that mother clutching her young child, with the child's mouth gaping open. As a result of the gas, the impact of the gas, there was a look of absolute fright on both mother and baby; just one of the Kurds killed by Saddam Hussein, one of the many.

I also want to remind everyone that the regime of Saddam Hussein continues to kill, torture and illegally imprison members of the Kurdish minority in Iraq, as well as anyone else who displeases the regime. Relief workers who have gone in to help the Kurdish refugees have also been the victims of extrajudicial executions as well as disappearances.

Mr. Speaker, back in the early 1990's I was part of the Speaker's mission that went to the refugee camps on the border of Turkey and Iraq and met with many of the Kurds who were fleeing the repression. It was right in the aftermath of the Persian Gulf War, and the Republican Guard were in hot pursuit of this Kurdish minority. It was very compelling and encouraging for me to see how our military carried on "Operation Provide Comfort." They came in, they organized, and they were able to provide the logistical support

for medicines and food to be dispersed, and thousands of Kurds were spared because of the humanitarian efforts of the United States military as part of "Operation Provide Comfort". After several months, the situation was stabilized, and the baton was passed to the nongovernmental organizations that then carried on the good work of providing this important relief.

Mr. Speaker, as my good friend and colleague, the gentleman from Illinois [Mr. PORTER], pointed out, the Kurds do suffer much in Turkey as well. We have had hearings, on the subject including one just this morning. The gentleman from Virginia [Mr. MORAN] was there, the gentleman from New York [Mr. GILMAN], the gentleman from Illinois [Mr. HYDE] and other members of our committee and subcommittee, and we focused on one of these areas, the proposed sale of Cobras to Turkey. As the chair of the Subcommittee on International Operations & Human Rights I believe that it would be outrageous to send Cobras to Turkey after the military might of the Turkish regime has been used in an ethnic cleansing effort against the Kurds, again another sad chapter in the kind of cruelty that these people have had to endure.

What is pointed out in this resolution, the massacre of the 5,000, is but one rather large and very terrible event in a series of tragedies that have been visited upon the suffering Kurdish minorities. So this is an important resolution, and I urge its passage.

Mr. GILMAN. Mr. Speaker, I have no further requests for time, and I yield back the balance of the time.

Mr. MORAN. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, let me just say I am encouraged by what the gentleman from Illinois [Mr. PORTER] shared with us in terms of the new leadership in Turkey. That is major progress, to consider opening up the supply lines, economic and humanitarian supply lines, to Armenia if we can make progress in terms of the conflict with Azerbaijan. Certainly, starting to hear the relationship with Greece is a step in the right direction. Some of us would like to see a recognition of the Armenian genocide, which has been a problem in terms of improved relations with Turkey. But perhaps with new leadership we will continue to move forward.

This resolution, however, is entirely in order, and we strongly support it.

Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. UPTON). The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from New York [Mr. GILMAN] that the House suspend the rules and agree to the resolution, House Resolution 379.

The question was taken.

Mr. PORTER. Mr. Speaker, on that demand the yeas and nays.

The yeas and nays were ordered.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 5, rule I, and the Chair's prior announcement, further proceedings on this motion will be postponed.

EMANCIPATION OF IRANIAN BAHA'I COMMUNITY

Mr. GILMAN. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and agree to the concurrent resolution (H. Con. Res. 102), concerning the emancipation of the Iranian Baha'i community.

The Clerk read as follows:

H. CON. RES. 102

Whereas in 1982, 1984, 1988, 1990, 1992, and 1994 the Congress, by concurrent resolution, declared that it holds the Government of Iran responsible for upholding the rights of all its nationals, including members of the Baha'i Faith, Iran's largest religious minority;

Whereas the Congress has deplored the Government of Iran's religious persecution of the Baha'i community in such resolutions and in numerous other appeals, and has condemned Iran's execution of more than 200 Baha'is and the imprisonment of thousands of others solely on account of their religious beliefs;

Whereas the Government of Iran continues to deny individual Baha'is access to higher education and government employment and denies recognition and religious rights to the Baha'i community, according to the policy set forth in a confidential Iranian Government document which has revealed by the United Nations Commission on Human Rights in 1993;

Whereas all Baha'i community properties in Iran have been confiscated by the government and Iranian Baha'is are not permitted to elect their leaders, organize as a community, operate religious schools or conduct other religious community activities guaranteed by the Universal Declaration of Human Rights; and

Whereas on February 22, 1993, the United Nations Commission on Human Rights published a formerly confidential Iranian Government document that constitutes a blueprint for the destruction of the Baha'i community and reveals that these repressive actions are the result of a deliberate policy designed and approved by the highest officials of the Government of Iran: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the House of Representatives (the Senate concurring), That the Congress—

(1) continues to hold the Government of Iran responsible for upholding the rights of all its nationals, including members of the Baha'i community, in a manner consistent with Iran's obligations under the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and other international agreements guaranteeing the civil and political rights of its citizens;

(2) condemns the repressive anti-Baha'i policies and actions of the Government of Iran, including the denial of legal recognition to the Baha'i community and the basic rights to organize, elect its leaders, educate its youth, and conduct the normal activities of a law-abiding religious community;

(3) expresses concern that individual Baha'is continue to suffer from severely repressive and discriminatory government actions, solely on account of their religion;

(4) urges the Government of Iran to extend to the Baha'i community the rights guaranteed by the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and the international covenants of human rights, including the freedom of thought, conscience, and religion, and equal protection of the law; and

(5) calls upon the President to continue—

(A) to assert the United States Government's concern regarding Iran's violations of the rights of its citizens, including members of the Baha'i community, along with expressions of its concern regarding the Iranian Government's support for international ter-

rorism and its efforts to acquire weapons of mass destruction;

(B) to emphasize that the United States regards the human rights practices of the Government of Iran, particularly its treatment of the Baha'i community and other religious minorities, as a significant factor in the development of the United States Government's relations with the Government of Iran;

(C) to urge the Government of Iran to emancipate the Baha'i community by granting those rights guaranteed by the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and the international covenants on human rights; and

(D) to encourage other governments to continue to appeal to the Government of Iran, and to cooperate with other governments and international organizations, including the United Nations and its agencies, in efforts to protect the religious rights of the Baha'is and other minorities through joint appeals to the Government of Iran and through other appropriate actions.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from New York [Mr. GILMAN] and the gentleman from Virginia [Mr. MORAN] will each be recognized for 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from New York [Mr. GILMAN].

Mr. GILMAN. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

(Mr. GILMAN asked and was given permission to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. GILMAN. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to rise in support of House Concurrent Resolution 102, concerning the emancipation of the Iranian Baha'i community and would like to urge all house Members to support this timely, important measure. I congratulate the Gentleman from Illinois [Mr. PORTER] for again championing this important cause by introducing this measure. This resolution is the latest in a series of resolutions concerning the continuing repression of the Baha'i community, and other religious minorities in Iran that have been adopted by the Congress since 1982.

It is truly a sad irony that since its founding the Baha'i religion, which itself poses no threat to secular authority anywhere, has been singled out for such harsh repression in Iran and other parts of the Middle East. I salute those who have courageously maintained their faith in the face of repression and who have too often paid the supreme price for their belief.

The closing years of this century have been marred by a resurgence of the brutality and horrors that have shaped much of its history. What we witness today in such places as Iran serves as a stark reminder that the struggle for human rights is constant. While we can learn from our unfortunate history and our past mistakes, we can never desist from our defense of international human rights standards. Men and governments always seem to have the tragic capability of repeating the barbarisms of the past in new and unforeseen ways despite all of the institutions created in the course of this bloody century to prevent mankind from tearing itself apart.